

REMARKS

The specification and the claims have been amended to comply with U.S. practice. Section headings have been added to the specification. Original claims 1-7 have been amended and new claims 8-10 have been added.

In the Specification

Add new paragraph before paragraph 1, "Field of the Invention."

Add new paragraph before paragraph 2, "Background of the Invention."

Add new paragraph before paragraph 12, "Brief Summary of the Invention."

Add new paragraph before paragraph 20, "Detailed Description of the Invention."

In the Claims

The amended claims eliminate multiple dependent claims, pronouns, indefinite language, and include antecedent basis for all claimed elements. Claims 8 and 9 are based on original claim 7. Claim 10 is based on original claim 5. No new matter has been added.

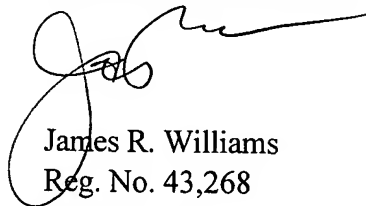
The Examiner is requested to consider Applicants' answer to the PCT written opinion. The PCT examiner had objected to the term, "thermet," as unclear. As explained in the answer, "thermet" is a term of art meaning a mixture of metal and ceramic that has been heat-treated. One skilled in the art would understand the meaning of this term, so the term is neither unclear nor indefinite.

In view of the above, Applicants believe the claims conform to standard U.S. practice, and are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request consideration and allowance of the amended claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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